

To: Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; Coleman, Sam[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov]
From: Majure, Allison, NMENV
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 10:28:23 PM
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO

Thanks David and Samuel,

Is there any greater detail on ***how the unexpected release occurred?*** Secretary Flynn had already received most of the Spot Report's data from the earlier statement which you were kind enough to share with me at noon today. He was hoping to understand what caused the unexpected release, if possible, at this time. Thanks.

All the best,

Allison

Allison Scott Majure, Communications Director

New Mexico Environment Department
505.827.2855 Office of the Secretary

505.231.8800 Cell | 505.827.0314 Office
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/OOTS/newsroom.html>

From: Gray, David [mailto:gray.david@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:13 PM
To: Majure, Allison, NMENV
Subject: Fwd: EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO

This went to Secretary Flynn.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Coleman, Sam" <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>
Date: August 6, 2015 at 4:04:01 PM CDT
To: "Ryan Flynn (ryan.flynn@state.nm.us)" <ryan.flynn@state.nm.us>, "Curry, Ron" <Curry.Ron@epa.gov>
Cc: "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov>, "Edlund, Carl" <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO

Just out from R8.

Samuel Coleman, P.E.,
Deputy Regional Administrator

coleman.sam@epa.gov

214.665.2100

214.665.3110 Direct

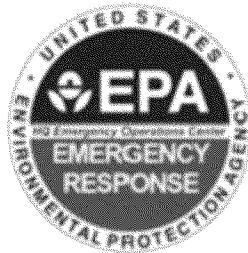
214.789.2016 Cell



From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 3:48 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO

This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.

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EOC Spot Report: Region 8, Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River; San Juan County, CO

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1630 EDT on 08/06/2015

Overview: At around 10:00 a.m. on August 5th, an EPA and Colorado State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety team was working to investigate and address contamination at the abandoned Gold King Mine in San Juan County, CO. This work unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine wastewater into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates indicate that the release is approximately one million gallons that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach and all were unharmed.

The acidic mine water associated with this release contains high levels of sediment and metals. EPA teams are conducting sampling and visual observations today

and will be monitoring river conditions over the next several days. EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: San Juan County officials are engaged in the response to the release. State officials are also on scene.

EPA Actions: A R8 OSC met with San Juan County leaders to discuss the release into the Animas River. R8 requested support from EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft and the plane is in route to collect photographic information to response officials.

Media Interest: Low

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150806/NEWS01/150809765/Mine-waste-in-Animas-River-nears-Durango->

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28595759/animas-river-contaminated-by-1-million-gallons-contaminated

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provided updates as needed.

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Robert Miller and Patrick Easter, Watch Officers

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